The Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

PRIDE: THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING FOR CHANGE

Editors Note: These are the texts of two speeches given at the 1992 Seattle Pride Rally. This was the first time ever that there were two OUT bisexuals on the program! Elizabeth Reba Weise was a speaker at the 1989 event.

by Raven Gildea

As a feminist, I tend to question everything. Lately I've done a lot of thinking about what it means to be bisexual.

To me it seems simple: we should all have the right to be who we are and to love whom we love.

But it's not simple. The bisexual movement is a serious challenge to the lesbian/gay community, because accepting our place in this community means change. Change is threatening. It means surrendering the familiar. But when the familiar is oppressive, change is necessary.

The bisexual movement has the potential to take queer liberation to new heights. It can radically alter the way we think about identity, gender and sexuality.

Including the words 'Bisexual and Transgender' in the parade name this year was a major step forward. Those words are a formal recognition of the work that a lot of people have been doing in this community for years.

But, as a community we have much work ahead of us if we are to truly celebrate our diversity. We still face the challenge of overcoming our internalized bigotry. We face the problems of men discounting women's issues, of whites discounting people of color, of youth discounting age and age discounting youth.

The work of accepting the place of bisexuals in the queer community is far from over.

There are many who claim that bisexuals are not discriminated against when we are perceived as straight. Well, lesbians and gays aren't discriminated against when they are perceived as straight, either. We in the bisexual community are here today because we refuse to assimilate. We will not hide in the straight world, and we will not hide in a closet labelled 'gay' either. Closets are for clothes, and assimilation is cultural suicide. We will not be silent. We will not be invisible. We will not be discriminated against, outside or within the queer community.

In a society where we are defined as people by the gender of our lovers, in a world which insists we must fit into one of two mutually exclusive categories, bisexuals are defined out of existence. When we refuse to let that happen, we challenge the either/or thinking on which Western civilization is based.

That's a pretty tall order. Looks like we bisexuals have our work cut out for us. So why should this fight be the fight of lesbians and gays also? Because until all people are free, none of us is.

This is all the same issue, folks. We need more than a piece of the pie for this or that special interest group. We need equal rights for all people. We need peace, safety, good food and enough of it, a clean environment, health care, education and freedom for ALL people!

We need to get beyond the idea that if we share out our resources among too many diverse groups, there won't be enough to go around. That is hierarchical thinking, and hierarchical thinking is the true enemy. To build community-based power, we need to welcome and celebrate diversity. We need to recognize that the more we stand together, the stronger the stand we can take.▼

THANKS AND THOUGHTS

by ben e factory

I'm a founding member of Seattle Bisexual Men's Union, BiNet USA, BiNet Seattle; part of the Queer Lib Movement since 1976 when i came out at age 15 in my home state of Iowa. I wrote the proposal and organized the effort which got bisexuals and transgendered people recognized in our local Pride events from now on.

I want to start off by thanking everyone who supports Bi and Trans inclusion, and helped Seattle become the first major city in the U.S. to recognize Bi and Trans people in the Queer community's most highly visible action every year: PRIDE. I

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Erica Avery, Dawn Palmer
Editors
Peggy Walsh, Beth Reba Weise
Editorial Assistance
Lizabeth, Lucy and volunteers
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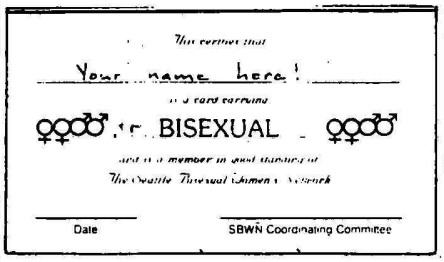
SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of feminists working to create a bisexual support network and to promote equality for bisexual people in both the heterosexual and lesbian/gay communities. We regard ourselves as part of the larger sexual minority community, and consider the fight for lesbian/gay rights to be our own. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political or economic coercion. We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexuality. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. While we work with men on issues of common interest, our group is exclusively female to keep the concerns of women in the forefront of our work.

The discrimination we face as women and as sexual minorities is only one facet of oppression: all bigotry is our enemy. We stand behind the racial and ethnic liberation movements and the struggle for economic equality. However, in any work we do, feminism and the interests of women will be our central concern.

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, P.O. Box 30645; Greenwood Station Seattle, WA 98103-0645, (206) 783-7987.

Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!



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☐ $25 Bi-Lover quarterly membership

☐ $100 Bi-Goddess membership

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We encourage contributions from our readers. Deadline for the next issue: **September 1**

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MEETING NOTES

MANY ROLE MODELS

by Alice Chalmers

We did a topic night on 'Our feelings about women.' Several issues were discussed, but first we wrote a little story about a woman role model we each have. We want to send these women out into the world...

She is my cousin Susan. Or is she Ellen Y.? Or Cher? Hnmmmmmmmm... What about Judy Chicago; or Karma? A woman role model I have is my teacher Jane. She's brilliant and gorgeous. She's about 50+, with dark black hair and white, white skin. Why I like her so much is because she's intelligent. If only I could have more of what she's got. I'm trying. She is also conscientious to mention women in the topics she teaches, plus she says 'she' instead of 'he' all the time. I like her brain. She is a senior professor at my university and that means she's in charge. Plus, she's very amiable and easy to talk with. I hope to know as much as she knows someday. She's especially good with the great thinkers like Rousseau, Hobbs, etc.... I'd like a grasp on the classical thinkers like she has.

Courage. Intelligence. Independent vision. Hard-working. Compassionate. Passionate. Empathetic with the young. Concerned for the future. Visionary. Graceful. Clear thinking. A survivor, inspiring courage in me, strengthening me to face my hard times. Reminds me of myself, as if we were different sides of the same person; she the side of me not yet developed, and vice versa. What a team we could make! Persistent, both under immediate pressure and over the long haul. Gracious.

Grandmother: Unconditional love; wisdom; insight into others; forgiving; generous; able to be honest about limitations; demonstrative about feelings; able to express emotions, including love and vulner-

(Continued on page 11)

From the EDITORS

Can you believe that summer's almost over? After all the celebrations and Pride events, I for one am ready to relax for awhile; at least until the Presidential campaign begins in earnest. We all know that the queer community must go out in force to ensure that we don't have another four years of the Bush administration's policies (or lack therof in the case of AIDS.) So this is a plea for all of you that aren't involved to get out and register your friends, canvass your neighborhood, put posters on your lawn and VOTE as if your life depended on it because it does.

Enough politics, for now. Our deadline for the next issue is September 1 and we welcome submissions as always! Look forward to first-hand reports from the Bi-Net National Conference in our next issue.

Much thanks to Peggy, Lizbeth, and Jim for their invaluable help.

See you in October!
-Erica and Dawn

CORRECTIONS: In our June Issue, the article "Safe Space and Prejudice" by Alice Chalmers was missing a bit of part one. The sentence should have read "In review of the meeting...A newcomer was reassured that personal safety is a concern to the group. Someone also said she doesn't actually feel the supposed support and interaction. There's still work to be done."▼

In our April issue, the article "Coming, Not Out of the Closet but into a Culture," by Beth Reba Weise was originally printed in the magazine *Ecce Queer*. *Ecce Queer* is accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, drawings, photographs, essays, etc. Their address is: Ecce Queer, 1925 8th Avenue, floor 2, Seattle, 98101.▼

LETTERS

Dear North Bi Northwest,

Hi. I'm interested in subscribing to your newsletter...please pass this along to Elizabeth Reba Weise if she's in the vicinity - I just wanted to tell her what a great job she did on *Closer to Home*. I've never actually not been able to put an anthology down (a novel, yes, an anthology, no). I found all of the articles really thought provoking. Thank you. It's about time!!

Take care,
Diana F

Dear Sisters:

I read with interest your statement of purpose: it is wonderful to know that feminism is still named and claimed with pride. Yet I wondered why only "racial and ethnic liberation movements" were included by name. Is SBWN not also inclusive of women with disabilities, older women, Wiccan and Jewish and Pagan (etc.) women, and women oppressed because of being fat in a horribly fat-hating society?

Bi-Net, I have heard, recently included "size discrimination" in their statement. Perhaps you could too? As well as other oppressions faced by Bi women?

Sincerely,
Diana Macken a sisterfounder of SAFFIR (Seattle Area Fat Feminist Inspiration and Rage) 784-1004

Editor's note: The SBWN Statement of Purpose reads "all bigotry is our enemy." This statement of purpose was developed by SBWN members. We welcome input from all SBWN members regarding any suggested changes to it, and regarding our ongoing work in creating safe space for all women in our group.▼

NEWS

from ANGLES, Vancouver BC

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S ANTHOLOGY : It is time for bisexual women's voices to be raised and heard. This means you! We are longing to read your poetry, essays, short stories, theory, oral histories, journals, letters, humour, interviews, conversations, rants, rages and (wo)manifestos about all issues and experiences related to being a bisexual woman. We would love to include your drawings, photographs and other visuals, too.

At least half of this anthology will be written and produced by women of colour. First Nations women from both sides of the 'border' are welcome. We are excited and honoured that this anthology will be published by Sister Vision Press, a women of colour press.

As bisexual women we need to define ourselves, come out, locate bisexuality politically within the queer (or lesbian/gay/bisexual) community, fight homophobia and heterosexism, build bisexual community, create bisexual visibility, share our histories, our anger, our pleasure and our energy.

We want you to know that we are a diverse editorial group of six feminist bisexual women.

We are black, black Asian, south Asian, Ashkenazi Jew and white; working class and middle class; able-bodied; in our twenties and thirties. We actively seek the voices of bisexual women of diverse backgrounds, abilities, class, cultures, race, religion, age and geographical locations.

If you have never written before, but dream about it or if you have and want to come out bi in print, share your work with us:

Bisexual Women's Anthology,
c/o Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217,
Station E, Toronto, Ontario, M6H 4E2,
Canada.▼

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE will be held in London, UK, October 23rd and 24th 1992. Workshops, a chance to meet other bisexuals from around the world, disabled access, child care and overnight accomodations available. Further details and booking forms available from : London Bisexual Group, BM BI, London WC1N 3XXX, United Kingdom. Enquiries: 081-568-1072▼

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from *The Advocate*, San Francisco

411 IS A JOKE

Can't seem to find listings for S/M accoutrements or transvestite clothing boutiques in the phone book? Getting the cold shoulder from operators when you ask for the local glory-hole hot line? Sounds like you need a copy of the not-so-little Black Book, what editor Bill Brent describes as the 'kinky yellow pages.'

The nationwide directory features over 500 listings of businesses and organizations-everything from mud clubs to neighborhood cleaners-geared toward alternative-sexuality communities. The idea is to serve as a kink-sensitive resource guide for those with sex-positive lifestyles and to document segments of those communities that have previously gone unchronicled.

Brent, who formerly worked as a San Francisco sex-information switchboard operator, feels he is filling a long-overlooked void in the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. "I would get calls from people in places like Topeka, Kansas, who didn't have access to this kind of information," he says. "They had no idea where to turn."

Now they do: (415)824-8377.▼

VANCOUVER, BC is celebrating its PRIDE week July 24-August 3. The March and Rally are Monday August 3.▼

MATERIAL NEEDED: For an anthology on "Body Image and Identity in the Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Community (ies)." The book will expolore the ways in which the community both challenges and perpetuates society's beauty standard. Some questions to be explored include: What does it mean to "look gay" or look "like a dyke?" How are our standards different from the mainstream culture's? When are we just parodying the media image? What place does the SM look have in this debate? What about the fear of fat in both men's and women's communities? Why are so many fat activists lesbian or bisexual women? Are "lipstick lesbians" just perpetuating the exploitation of women? What is going on in the gay men's community? Submissions and/or queries should be sent to: Dawn Atkins, PO Box 934, Santa Cruz, CA, 95061-0934. Deadline is September 15, 1992. Suggested word length is 700-2500 words. Longer submissions should be queried first. All manuscripts should be typed double spaced and include self-addressed stamped envelope for return. Would prefer that contributors be self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual. The book is tentatively scheduled for publication Fall '93.▼

BI ANTHOLOGY: Bi the Way: An Anthology of Writings on Bisexuality, is being put together by New York Activist Sheela Lambert. Write her for more information at 720 W 173rd St, New York, NY 10032.▼

SEATTLE COUNSELING SERVICE for Sexual Minorities is offering a four week intensive summer group for children (ages 8-12) of sexual minorities. They will be exploring family, friends, school, and self-esteem issues. Space is limited, cost is sliding scale 0-$15 per session. There are plans to repeat the group in the fall. Phone 282-9307 for more information.▼

News

SOLICITING ESSAYS for a new anthology of writings by Bisexual men. All bisexual men are welcome to send essays on how their bisexuality has influenced their lives and what it means to be a bisexual man. Essays by bisexual men of color, prisoners or former prisoners, heterosexually identified bisexual men, bisexual men over 60 or under 25, bisexual men involoved in the queer liberation movement, bisexual men with AIDS or HIV disease, and transgendered bisexual men are especially encouraged; the editor hopes to have an anthology that speaks from all perspectives of being a bisexual man, across the spectrum. The piece should impose its own length on the author. Suggested limits are 1500-4000 words, but those are flexible. Include name, address, phone number and pseudonym (if desired) at the top left of the title page. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with enough postage to return manuscript. Submissions can be sent on a Macintosh disc (Word Perfect or MS Word) or as doublespaced, typewritten manuscripts to:

Drew Lewis c/o BBMN
338 Newbury St. 202C
Boston, MA 02115.

For more information, contact Drew Lewis at the above address or by calling (617) BIS-MOVE.▼

LIVING IN LEATHER: the National Leather Association is holding its 7th conference in Chicago, Illinois October 9-11, 1992 including Vendors and Exhibits, Seminars and Workshops, Dungeon and Play Space Parties, etc. Tickets are $125.00 if purchased before September 1. Contact PARADISE ENTERTAINMENT, 3134 No. Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 528-0041.▼

NORTHWEST AIDS WALK is September 20, 1992. As usual, SBWN will be participating as a team. Join us, or get more information from the Northwest AIDS Foundation, 127 Broadway East, Ste 200, Seattle, WA, 98102-5786. (206) 329-6923▼

COLLECTING THE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON WOMEN on August 6, in Bellingham and October 7, in Cheney. During two separate day-long seminars, specialists in women's history will share their experiences in locating, researching and interpreting sources. Speakers and panelists will explore the challenges of women's history, note the obstacles to locating sources, and discuss how to interpret and present varied documentary and material culture items.

Registration fees are $25 plus a $5 materials fee. For registration or further information, please contact :

Heritage Resource Center
211 W 21st Ave,
Olympia, WA 98501
(206)586-0219▼

PORTLAND, OREGON now has a bisexual women's group. Contact Marky K., PO Box 10863, Portland, OR, 97210.▼

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOPS are being offered by Crossroads Learning Center. Unarmed skills training is Saturday August 15, 10-4, and Introduction to Weapons training is Sunday August 16, 10 - 4 . Tickets are $50 for one day and $90 for both days, plus a $10 materials fee if you don't have your own.

For more information contact Crossroads Learning Center at 1412 12th, PO Box 12184, Seattle, WA 98102 Phone (206) 325-8790.▼

THE LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES have their own home at last in Brooklyn, New York. The Archives were founded by Joan Nestle 18 years ago in response to the failure of mainstream archives to collect Lesbian information, memorabilia, writings, records, photographs, etc. The archives have resided with her in her home until now. A building was purchased last December and a grand opening is planned for September or October. The Archives accept anything having any relation at all to Lesbians and/or lesbian culture. Funds for its continuation are always needed, especially now with the expenses of a new building to meet. The address is:

Lesbian Herstory Education Foundation, Inc,
POBox 1258
New York, NY 10116.
(212) 874-7232▼

BI WON WON (BIsexual Women Of the North West Over Nighter) is a Northwest Women's Event, with SBWN inviting Bi women in the Portland OR area to visit Seattle. Several women from Portland, who didn't know each other, came to us at our Pride Rally to talk about organizing groups and networking with neighbors. The acronym seemed to have an Asian flavor, so we'll begin our weekend socially with dinner at a great Chinese restaurant, followed by dancing at one of several clubs. Sunday morning we'll have a potluck brunch and get a chance to talk about the business (and fun) of organizing various types of bi groups and events. Where we go from there is open to discussion. SBWN is prepared to offer overnight accomodations to out of towners. Phone us for more information.▼

Maggie Rubenstein, an OUT Bisexual woman in California was co-Grand Marshall, along with Don Johnson, of the San Francisco Pride Parade.▼

POETRY

We are all soldiers in
Our own little way
We each have our battles
That we fight each day
We try to keep our loves, fears
and prejudices at bay

It is not just the fighting
That wears the soldier down
But the constant preparation
To receive the victory crown
It's sad, the effort is futile
The soldier is merely a clown

War is a three ring circus
Complete with animals and
freaks
The soldier is part of this
But peace is what a soldier seeks
The soldier may end up in hell
Where the fire and sulphur reeks

Only with a peace treaty
Will this all end
All the social rules will
Now have to bend
But what about the soldiers?
Will they ever mend?

-Twisted Sister

These photos are from the BiNet Family Reunion (see story page 8) and were taken by Drew R.

There is a knock at the door
Should I answer it?
Maybe it's opportunity
Maybe it's bullshit
Maybe it's my knight
In shining armor
Maybe it's death
Wouldn't that be an honor?

So I go to the door
Not knowing what to expect
Look through the peephole
And yell "who is it?"
There is no answer
There is no one in sight
So I open the door
And look out into the night

Whew, what a relief
The knock on the door
May have led to grief
Of course it may have
Been something good that
Fate had in store for me
I took too long to get to the door
This is the lesson, I finally see.

-Twisted Sister

REVIEW

"FEELGOODFEMINISM"ATTHEBALLPARK

by Kathleen Bennett

The character Mo in *Dykes to Watch Out For* has a high standard for movies. She'll only see a film if: (a) there are at least two woman characters; (b) who talk to each other; (c) about something besides a man. Mo was probably first in line to see the new film *A League Of Their Own*. This "feelgood film of the summer" is a feminist film, at least by mainstream standards. Accessible, not theoretical, it shows a perfectly ordinary thing which is disproportionately invisible in the media: women being together.

Being a Hollywood film, League is, naturally, simplistic and predictable. But Penny Marshall, who directed the film, is a living argument for the necessity for more women directors in the mainstream film industry. In ways that are subtle rather than revolutionary, she counteracts the run-of-the-mill sexist assumptions that underpin so much of contemporary film fare.

Her film is about the historical All American Girls' Professional Baseball League, which was started in 1943, when most male ballplayers were away at war. The strong point of the film lies in the casting of actresses who bring some life to the stick-figure characterizations.

The central player of the ensemble is Dottie (Geena Davis). Davis possesses a cool, understated talent that can telegraph a lot of complexity and depth without even looking like she's trying. In the numerous game scenes, she projects a firm determination and glowing jock beauty. Dottie's sister Kit (Lori Petty) is a no-nonsense athlete, beset by kid-sister psychodynamics, and filled with the will to succeed. Outfielder Mae (a dark-haired Madonna) is, well, Madonna - bawdy and spunky. Her acting is a little less mediocre than usual, and Marshall gives her a showcase scene in a roadhouse to demonstrate what Madonna indubitably does best: dancing up a storm and showing off her underwear.

One of the more interesting aspects of the formulaic plot is the feminist spin given to Dottie's climactic dilemma. Straight out of the pages of Carol Gilligan's *In A Different Voice*, Dottie must choose between abstract goods like "the team" and "winning," and the familial relationship with her sister. The way that she plays this close to the center will hopefully satisfy both feminists and those with more conventional expectations of a "happy ending." (Especially since it doesn't involve driving off a cliff.)

The film is a breezy thrill, and emotionally manipulative in a way that left my heart feeling warmed, not used. Watching these women play is fun even for a non-sports-fan. It's great to see them run around striving for excellence and getting sweaty, in a time when women's freedom to do so was greatly circumscribed. However, the contrast between this freedom and the era in which the film is supposedly set raises too many questions that the film is not positioned to address.

The premise of the film sets up the great irony of the League's existence: a group of women who bonded together and behaved in a way not available to most women at the time, but who were still expected to retain their restrictive femininity and eventually return to feminine roles. But in order to prevent unsettling questions from getting in the way of the fun, the script takes the film out of its historical time. Forties attitudes are brought up only to make a point of humor or advance the plot, and then put comfortably away again.

I wonder how the differences between domestic married life and the single woman's existence, and the personality differences between the two sisters, contributed to one's decision to use sports to "get out of this place" and the other's desire to return home again. I am curious as to how Mae dealt with being sexually active and proud of her sexuality in a time when "sluttish" behavior led to social ostracism and back-alley abortions. What were the working-class roots of the friendship between Mae and Doris, and what were the conflicts raised by such a tight bonding between two heterosexual women? What was the story of the great black female athletes (nodded to in one brief scene) who still could not get a league of their own? Was the League a place, like the military, where pre-Stonewall woman-loving-women could find a place?

A League of Their Own is clearly one of those cases where historical fiction is really about the time in which it was produced, not the era it purports to represent. Still, Penny Marshall gets a lot of mileage out of the limited script. She does not hide from the feminist implications of the story, and portrays the characters with respect, never exploitatively.

She also fulfills the potential of the story for providing role models. Little girls who go to this film (it's rated PG) can come out feeling able to do and be anything. The strong, anti-stereotypical "old ladies" in the scenes of the League's contemporary reunion greatly broaden the spectrum of images of older women available in most movies. And while *League* does not answer many of the more complex questions it raises, hopefully it will stimulate enough public interest to make room for independently-produced documentaries that will tell a more well-rounded story. These All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League belongs to American history, and to feminist history, and Penny Marshall has brought its players into our hearts.▼

BINET FAMILY REUNION

by Peggy Walsh

I had the most wonderful time on the Fourth of July weekend,when seventeen women, men and a child ran off to Manning Provincial Park in British Columbia. We didn't see a single firework the whole four days.

The first day was spent mostly locating and setting up camp, and leaving "BiNet Family Retreat" notes at the lodge so those coming later could find us. After dinner and cleanup we spent a couple hours sitting in the dark around a campfire swapping stories: Was your first lover male or female? Same or other gender? Did it make a difference? When did you recognize your own Bi-ness?

More people showed up on Friday. Many of us went for a walk around Lightening Lake. Raven and I coaxed some (!) of the guys to join us in a brisk swim, while the others sat up on the rocks admiring the scenery. It was lovely.

In the evening we all met to discuss BiNet planning; we brain-stormed goals and began forming some work groups. This was followed by several of us reading stories & poetry we've written or collected. Finally we got into an informal chat about sex and relationships and how different sorts of them suit our various needs. There seemed to be a bias toward non-monogamy. Ranger Rick came along at 1 AM and gently sent us to bed. We wondered how long he'd been listening to our stimulating conversation.

Saturday began hot and partly sunny. We set out in various parties to go on a long ridge-line hike, wander some alpine meadow paths, or bask by the lakeside. We'd barely gotten into our respective activities when thick hail came hissing down, piling up around us in the higher elevations and deluging rain on those lower down. Those few who stayed behind at the camp heroically bailed our roof-tarp all afternoon. At some point all of us ended up in the sauna (this was camping, not an expedition); all in the men's, to be more sociable. Nobody else seemed to mind; they knew we were part of this huge family reunion!

The evening was punctuated with splooshes of water being dumped off our tarp, even though we'd retied it higher and tighter. In this night's meeting we narrowed down some of the previous night's goals and did some planning for the upcoming BiOut speakers bureau orientation.

The rain continued all night. Only a few tents stayed dry, while others were flooding. Two lucky campers tucked themselves in on a futon in the covered back of a pickup truck (resourceful campers).

I returned home feeling content, happy, tired but rested. Part of what made the trip so satisfying for me was the company I was in. I had a number of warm and meaningful conversations with various people, and got more personal attention than I'm used to. It was so nice to be among people who realize how important it is to care for one another, and act on it.▼

BINET IN THE RAIN

by Lizbeth Coller

For this year's 4th celebration, the BiNet/Seattle group decided to leave fireworks and misplaced patriotism behind, and go hide in the woods in a foreign country.

After much discussion, even more planning, some confusion, and a relatively painless (for most of us) customs query, 5 women, 11 men, and 1 child joined together for dinner on Friday.

After cleaning up, we had a meeting, and then a reading. Several people read their own works, and some read things of interest. Peggy's vampire story was pretty good. The conversation then moved to (what else?) sex, and a general discussion of monogamy/non-monogamy (what else?)!

The next morning started out looking fine. We all got late starts on our plans, which turned out to be a real minus.

Two of us went off to see about horse-back riding; we were very disappointed, since the trails are all lead, and only walking of the horses is allowed. At $14 (C) the price was right, but the excitement level was not.

We joined another group at the sub-alpine hike, and got about a quarter of the way through the guide book before the hail. We were at a naturist's hut, so we managed to stay fairly comfortable, and even had snack (Poptart, anyone?). When it looked as though we were doomed, the 2 drivers hitched a ride back down to the cars, and picked the rest of us up.

At the prospect of being wet and cold, we opted for lunch at the lodge, and the sauna (yes, this is stuff, this camping stuff). Afterwards, I even found a lending library of sorts in the main lodge lobby, and 'borrowed' a book.

Back at camp things were as expected. The returning 'death- march' crew went off to sauna, while dinner was prepared. Clean-up, meeting, and then off to our sleeping bags. Around 2 AM I thought I was going to shiver to death, but my tent-mate was kind enough to glome against my back, and I survived the night.

Things were not much better in the morning. The rain had slowed to continual drizzle, and the sun never did show up to warm things. Breakfast was one of the best in my memory, oatmeal and HOT tea.

We broke camp, packed everything and everyone, and headed out. The weather got worse coming down the mountain, and the traffic in some areas was like rush hour. Customs was a breeze. Bellingham for lunch, and then we were home.

Overall, I found that 17 people were a bit overwhelming. In better weather we could have all gone our own ways, and I would have had some of the down time I wanted, to read and process. Those who had planned to adventure out Saturday afternoon never did get to, and my apologies to them.

I enjoyed many conversations, and some great topics (the anarchist's dream of taking over my old employer, for one). I met people I didn't know, learned more about people I did, and built some intimacy (with who is none of your business).

My most heart-felt thanks to Raven, Peggy, and ben for all the planning and running around. May the next planning team do as well!▼

REVIEW

WOMEN, PHYSICS, AND CARTOONS

by Annemarie Succop

Why am I writing a book review of a cartoon physics text for a bi-feminist women's newsletter? I think the issue of women in science and technology is as important as other feminist issues covered in these pages. And while this particular book may not have been written with women specifically in mind, it addresses some of my particular 'women's issues' in science, and gives me a convenient little soapbox to jump onto.

I almost expect older, het, white, male scientists to give me trouble as a woman interested in science. Women (and other non-woman minorities) in science may go against who they see science as being 'for,' or maybe we feel like a threat to them, or maybe they want to protect their power. I can see why an older, het, white, male scientist might feel uncomfortable with me in 'his' field; I can't see me letting him get away with actually keeping me from being there.

I don't expect similar attitudes from feminist women. Yet, to my surprise, I've had women of my acquaintance express amazement that I'd be interested in such a 'male' field. Women that I'd imagine having no problem with other women reclaiming 'dyke' bristle at some of those same women reclaiming 'geek.' I've heard a woman say to another woman, 'What, did you grow a penis?' in response to the other woman showing interest in a technical aspect of their shared job.

What is going on here?

I think part of the answer lies in my set-up to the het white males; in many ways, many feminist women have grown up in a similar culture. Feminist women may not have seen many women in science, or may perceive science/technology as being 'for' white men. Women may also feel that a society that values science and technology is necessarily supporting 'male values' at the expense of 'women's values'. Just today I had a coworker tell me that seeing scientist women makes her feel bad about her lack of 'achievement' in the world; if they could do it, why hasn't she? This particular repercussion of potential role models later in life had honestly never occurred to me.

Scientific and technical knowledge is too important to be restricted to the 'privileged' classes. People, regardless of race, gender, class, or what-have-you, should be actively encouraged to excel in what interests them, including the possibility of scientific and technical skills. Must our 'feminism' be so dualistic as to impose 'feminine' values of emotions and concern for people as if these values are necessarily in conflict with intellectual rigor and an interest in physics? Could possibly encouraging women (and male minorities) in scientific/technical fields change some of the power structure and automatic dualistic value attribution that can underlie some scientific/technical fields? Isn't such encouragement more likely to get to the root of the problem than continuing to discourage women would?

Back to the book! What I liked most about this book was its attitude. It basically is a rough overview of introductory physics, as told in comic-book format. The main character is a woman named Lucy, who explains basic concepts of physics to her male sidekick. Many of her explanations are in response to his questions, which, in general, are the questions of a physics layperson. For me, the friendly format renewed my childhood 'How do things work?' curiosity while providing some of the answers. True, I was already familiar with most of the material presented, but the coherence and continuity of ideas helped smooth rough edges in my physics understanding and bring information to a day-to-day-level. My only real objection to the presentation style is that some rather complex math is just sort of thrown at the reader. Readers unfamiliar or uncomfortable with math may feel intimidated; even mathematically sophisticated readers may want further context, development, derivations, something. At one point in the book, unfortunately too near the end, the authors poke fun at the intimidation value of formulas as compared to how friendly an 'in English' explanation can seem; I wish this concept had been presented in the introduction. Understanding these formulas is not crucial to following the ideas in the book; I suspect the authors included formulas for people who wouldn't have taken the book 'seriously' otherwise.

What does the book review have to do with all of my ranting beforehand? Well, the combination of taking lay questions seriously, a female main character/teacher/example, and day-to-day examples addresses many of the problems that I think many people socialized in a 'feminine' passive learning style have with much of the traditional science education. Things make more sense in context; and, many boys are actively encouraged to do science-positive activities outside of school. Many girls are not, or are actively discouraged. I had never thought of electricity as anything other than what makes a light go on when I hit my first physics class; I am convinced this put me at a disadvantage as compared to boys who may have had science kits from age ten on. The choice of a female exemplar also supports the identification

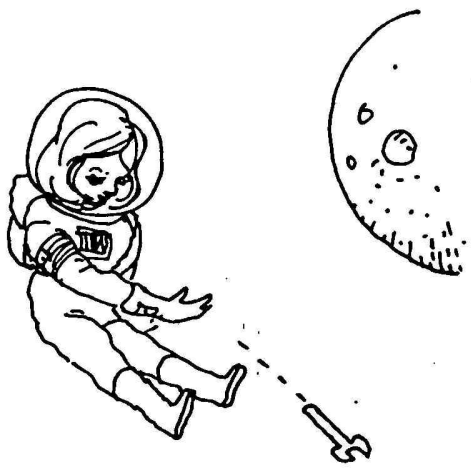

illustration from the book

PRIDE TALK

(Continued from page 1)

want to particularly thank the following individuals for their personal efforts to secure and defend Bi and Trans inclusion: Michael Red Earth of Tahoma Two Spirits; Gwen Hall and George Bakkan, regional co-chairs of the March on Washington; J.R. Stone of the Pacific Northwest Veterans' Association; Bill Ross of the Freedom Day Committee; Su Docekal of Radical Women; Cal Anderson, State Representative. I also want to thank the following organizations for the letters and public statements of support for inclusion: Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund; People of Color Against Aids Network; Queer Nation; Lambert House, Gay Lesbian Bisexual Youth Center; ACT-UP; Beyond the Closet Books; Pacific Northwest Veterans; American Friends Service Committee's Gay Lesbian Youth Program; U of W's Gay Bi Lesbian Association; and Seattle Municipal Elections Commission for Gays Lesbians and Bisexuals.

Let's hear it for all the folks who're standing up against Biphobia!

I want to briefly share with you some of the reasons why so many Queers support Bi and Trans inclusion.

Starting with the ethical: Queer lib involves us in a struggle to makethe dominant heterosexist culture recognize and value the diversity of sexual orientations and identities. So within Queer culture, we need the same spirit of recognizing and valuing diversity.

Then there's the political and herstorical. The 'gay' movement became the 'lesbian and gay' movement, and now many are calling it the 'Queer' or 'trans-lesbi-gay' movement.

Many more Queer groups are struggling on several fronts to be more inclusive and supportive of various kinds of Queers who are disproportionately few in most Queer circles. Inclusiveness and support of diversity are making our movement stronger in spirit and in numbers.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people face the same bashings, the same discriminations in housing, workplaces, child custody, etc., and the same heterosexist cultural oppression.

We must not forget that the Stonewall Uprising which 'Pride/Freedom' events commemorate was initiated by drag queens and s/m wimmin of several colors, orientations, and identities:

And for as long as one cares to look back, Bi and Trans people have been part of the Queer experience, culture, and movement.

Many persons which Queer culture has rightly reclaimed but calls only 'gay' or 'lesbian' were 'bi' or 'transgender' in life experience,though many didn't refer to themselves by any of these terms because such terms often weren't popularly used.

BUT THEY ARE NOW, SO LET'S GET USED TO THEM ALL!

In alphabetical order: BISEXUAL, GAY, LESBIAN, QUEER, TRANSGENDERED. All together now: BISEXUAL, GAY, LESBIAN, QUEER, TRANSGENDERED. ALL RIGHT!!!▼

CARTOON PHYSICS

(Continued from page 9)

of being able to do what's being taught, and the attitude of anticipating, taking seriously, and answering common questions may well empower otherwise hesitant people to ask similar questions in in-person learning situations.

Really, read this book! It's fun, it's not that expensive, it might demystify something you've wondered about, or just consolidate something you're already familiar with. I caught myself, after reading it, wondering about gravity for the first time since I was six. And the thing that originally drew me to this book was a panel with the male assistant jumping up and down saying 'But what is a charge, I don't understand this at all!!!' I clearly remember having this feeling in both high school college physics, but feeling too stupid to ask about it in class. Imagine my relief at Lucy's response and explanation; 'Good question! Classical electricity & magnetism just doesn't answer these questions.' Yay, Lucy.▼

Support groups, **housing file,** *fiction,* **non-fiction,** ***magazines,*** newspapers, *emergency referrals,* **service referrals - accountants, attorneys, carpenters, chiropractors, dentists, lawncare, plumbers, therapists - dances,** coming out groups, safe sex kits, **a place to hang out...**

All at the **Lesbian Resource Center**

1208 E. Pine
Seattle, WA 98122
206/322-3953

"I was just going to stay home and watch the Brady Bunch marathon on Nick at Night, but then I picked up my copy of the *LRC Community News* and it said there was a great band playing. That was so much fun. And while I was reading I saw that there was this softball tournament this weekend so I'm definitely going to watch that. And I saw that there's a rap group this Wednesday night. And I saw an ad for a mechanic so I think I'll finally get my car fixed...."

LRC Community News.
$12 a year by mail or available from newsstands, bookstores and bars all around town.

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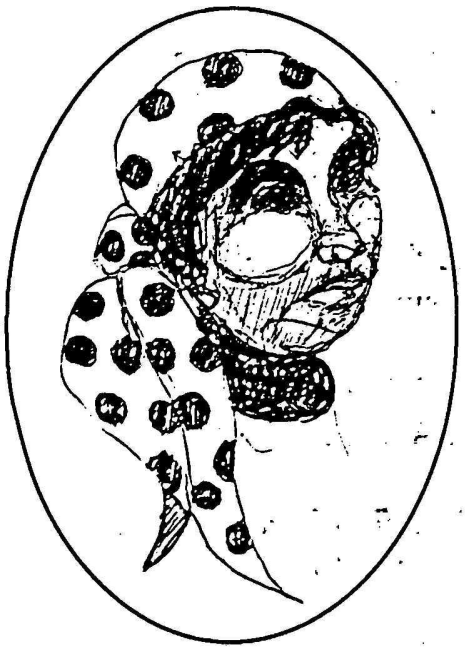


drawing by Sandra F

ROLE MODELS

(Continued from page 3)

ability. She is a woman who always was, and always will be, there for me. We have total acceptance of and love for one another. She is a woman who has gone through and survived some of the world's greatest atrocities, namely the Nazi Holocaust. She is a woman who has turned her struggles, not into bitterness and victimization, but into strength, love and a committment to others. She laughs with me, cries with me, and never discounts my experiences. She taught me to have integrity and social consciousness, loyalty and cultural pride.

Diana Ross. Goldie Hawn. Cher. Lily Tomlin, Madonna, *et al*... They have handled their careers and personal lives as they please, as much as possible. They give the appearance of following their own personal code, as opposed to following the herd.

My role model has been a friend who has been very persistent in her chosen career, and a very outspoken feminist despite being often made fun of and ridiculed. She has never backed down from the label 'feminist,' although sometimes I have learned from her not to be quite as outspoken as she is!

Bette Midler: Gutsy; full of passion, excitement; and although she isn't 'the classic beauty,' her beauty surpasses the realm of my comprehension and understanding. Her strong lilting voice is a flute calling me to indulge in her womanhood. She also has the ability to say or do anything obnoxious and still be admired as an inspired diva!

My mother: She is a strong woman who hit Rock Bottom, then struggled for success. In my eyes she never gave up hope and never showed anything less than the complete acceptance that she needed to heal herself. She is open-minded and always treats others with respect. After years of being separate from her in my teens, being reunited was difficult, but she has become my mother, and my best friend. I trust, respect, admire and love her, and hope to model my life to be as emotionally, spiritually, and mentally secure as she.

1968: co-worker, office mate, supervisor. She shared generously about her professional life and her personal life. She was interested and willing to help me with tasks that were difficult. She volunteered to do tasks with or for me. She was willing/able to admit when she didn't know, and to ask questions and learn. She made 'rules' that were guidelines and not orders, that were negotiable. She appreciated what I did well.

♀ My ex-partner's mother (and my friend). She is not afraid to achieve what she wants. She loves her children and encourages their independence. She is adventuresome and curious; not the stereotype of middle age. She has a strong circle of close women friends. ♀♀♀ She has really good taste in art and culture! She's warm and giving and accepting to people she sees as her 'family.' She's totally awesome! ♀

A friend: She's been into the pit of despair and adversity, both i n the years I've known her, and long before then. I admire the way she's called on friends, and especially on her inner strength, to overcome her trials. She has educated herself, gaining greater self-knowledge as well as academic advancement. She is raising her daughter alone, doing community service, advancing in her job, staying sane. She's friendly, open, curious. She provides me an example of consistency, and I love her.

Laurie L: The bestest friend ever: charitable; loving; beautiful; full of life (i.e. energetic); artistic; open-minded; accepting; always attempts to understand; dependable; true blue; what you see is what you get... and it's wonderful; totally fit bod, too!

A few years ago my paternal grandmother and I were discussing my cousin, Carol, who was then about 32. Carol has two male traveling partners, and as a group they have traveled to China, and even to the West Coast. After I had met the two men, Grandma asked me if I thought Carol was sleeping with either of them. I said I didn't know. My grandmother then said "Well, I hope so, I don't want Carol to die a virgin."▼

This is the text of amessage we recently received on the Bi phone. We thought it was worth printing:

I think your service is wonderful and I wish so very much that I was able to use it and leave my number and address, but unfortunately I can't. But I listened to your whole message. Bless you - I only wish I was able to accept this opportunity, but I don't have my own phone number, so I chickened out.

You guys are doing a great job. Thank you very much. I enjoyed listening to you.▼

Calendar

Please note that topics can be tentative. Call the bi-phone at 783-7987 to check.
For men's events, call the Seattle Bisexual Men's Union at 720-4506.
For information about BiNet events call 720-4506

AUG 2 SBWN topic night: Affinity Groups, 6pm

AUG 3 Vancouver, BC Pride March and Rally

AUG 7 BiNet meeting: Garden party and planning meeting for a discussion of Non-monogamy. 7pm, ben's, call SBMU for address

AUG 8-9 BiWonWon: **Bi**sexual **W**omen **O**f the **N**orth**W**est **O**ver**N**ighter. See inside for details

AUG 9 SBMU discussion meeting, 7pm. Portable B107, SCCC

AUG 10 SBWN Newcomer's group, 7:15pm

AUG 12 BiOut Speaker's bureau orientation, 7pm, Raven's. Call the bi-phone for address

AUG 16 SBWN Check-in meeting, 6pm

AUG 24 SBWN Newcomer's group, 7:15pm

AUG 30 SBWN topic night: TBA, 6pm

SEPT 7 SBWN Newcomer's group, 7:15pm. Note: because of the holiday, please call the bi-phone to confirm this meeting.

SEPT 13 SBWN Check-in meeting, 6pm

SEPT 21 SBWN Newcomer's group, 7:15pm

SEPT 27 SBWN topic night: TBA, 6pm

OCT 5 SBWN Newcomer's group, 7:15pm

OCT 11 SBWN Check-in meeting, 6pm

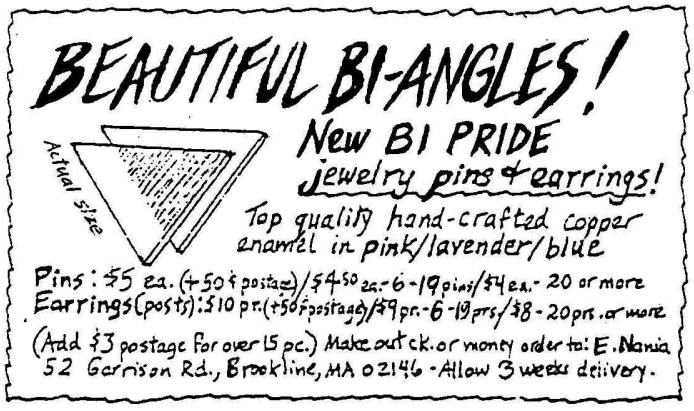
OCT 11 National **COMING OUT** Day!!

Dear North Bi Northwest,

Enclosed please find my updated ad copy, camera-ready, to be run in North Bi Northwest again. I've gotten better responses by far in your newsletter than from any others, so I'd like to run the ad two more times. Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

Liz Nania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New BI PRIDE jewelry pins & earrings!
Actual size
Top quality hand-crafted copper enamel in pink/lavender/blue
Pins: $5 ea. (+50¢ postage)/$4.50 ea.-6-19 pins/$4 ea.-20 or more
Earrings (posts): $10 pr. (+50¢ postage)/$9 pr.-6-19 prs./$8-20 prs. or more
(Add $3 postage for over 15 pc.) Make out ck. or money order to: E. Nania
52 Garrison Rd., Brookline, MA 02146 - Allow 3 weeks delivery.